**Cartography Courses in Universities/Institutions**

1586. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some courses in Cartography after 10 plus 2, B.A. and M.A. are being conducted by some Universities/Institutions of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such courses level-wise alongwith the names of Universities/ Institutions with eligibility criteria fixed for each course by each Institution ;

(c) whether Government propose to provide the said courses in other Universities/ Institutions during current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Female 'Literacy in the Country**

1387. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the female literacy, State-wise rural and urban break-up during 1960-61, 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1990-91;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to increase female literacy specially In rural areas;

(c) whether any concreate action plan exists in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The literacy data In the country is collected through the decennial census operations. A statement showing State-wise female literacy rates for all areas, rural and urban as per the 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991 census is enclosed. *[See* below)

(b) to (d) The Universalisation of Elementary Education Non-formal Education for School Drop-outs and the National i leracy Mission form three pronged strategy for the eradication of illiteracy i n the country aad particularly amongst the women. Some of the specific steps undertaken to increase the enrolement, retention and achievement Itveh of girls in the school system include :—

(i) Provision of incentives such as free uniform, free textbooks, attendance scholarships, mid-day meals,

(ii) Provision of primary and upper primary schools within easy walking distance,

(iii) Provision of programmes of part time non-formal education for children who cannot attend whole day schools and children in habitations without schools,

(iv) Improvement of school facilities under centrally sponsored scheme of Operation Blackboard and particularly toilet facilities for girls,

(v) Appointment of female teachers specially in rural areas,

(vi) Resvision of curriculum to avoid sex bias,

(vii) Laying down of minimum levels of learning and adoption of competency based approach etc.

A Dutch assisted Project Mahila Sama-khya which seeks to bring about a change li women's perspective about themselves a id that of society in regard to women's traditional roles is also being implemented in 15 districts speadover 4 States of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

Under the National Literacy Mission roughly 2/3rd of the beneflciaries arc reported to be women.